

# The Weekly Chieftain.

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## MURDERESS GETS LIFE SENTENCE

Story of Step-Son Believed to Have  
Caused Jury to Convict Mrs.

Nettie Brown.

Bartlesville, Okla., Feb. 16. — Her stepson's story of their improper love for each other and the crime which resulted from it was responsible for the verdict of guilt brought in Monday night against Mrs. Nettie Brown. She was convicted of first degree murder for killing her husband, T. B. Brown, and will be sentenced to prison for life. Her attorneys gave notice of an appeal.

Peter Brown, the son of the slain man, told on the witness stand a remarkable story of love and murder. The elder Brown, his second wife and Peter Brown, a son by the first marriage, were traveling through Oklahoma in a wagon. Peter Brown said his stepmother urged him to kill his father and appealed to his love for her to gain his consent. After his father had gone to sleep one night Peter Brown aroused by his stepmother, who placed an ax in his hands and told him the time for action had come.

One blow with the ax ended the life of the sleeping man. Then the son and his stepmother, after robbing the body, placed it on the campfire and piled wood on it. The boy said he went back to bed while his stepmother remained up to keep the fire replenished. The story of the crime was told with such accuracy of detail that women in the courtroom, overcome by horror, fainted.

The elder Brown had \$2,000, the proceeds of the sale of a Missouri farm, and it is supposed that Mrs. Brown took this money.

The defense laid stress on the assertion that the body of a 160-pound man could not be burned in an open wood fire on the prairie in seven hours and totally consumed. The prosecution offset this with a reminder of the experience of farmers in burning the bodies of hogs and cattle in a less time than was alleged to be available for burning Brown's body.

## GOVERNOR REFUSES TO WITNESS DETACHMENT

Guthrie, Okla., Feb. 17.—Governor Haskell has temporarily blocked the official filing of the local option and high license petitions for the submission of an amendment repealing the prohibition section of the constitution.

The law requires that the signatures be detached by the secretary of state in the presence of the governor and one of the petitioners. The governor refuses to witness the detaching of the signatures and it will be necessary to institute court proceedings to compel him to do so.

In a lengthy letter to the secretary of state, Governor Haskell says that the Indian nations were acting within their rights when they asked congress to impose prohibition on the Indian territory side for twenty-one years, and that congress acted within its rights when it required the adoption of this portion of the Oklahoma constitution.

He says the court should pass on the proposition before the expense of action is incurred.

## POSTAL SAVINGS BANK BILL FACES DEFEAT

Associated Press.  
Washington, D. C., Feb. 16.—Unless Senator Root can be induced to withdraw or materially modify his amendment to the postal savings bank bill, during the investment of postal savings in United States bonds, the measure probably will be defeated in senate. Friends of the bill practically admit this is the situation.

## SAFE AND GOT AWAY WITH ABOUT \$10,000.

Associated Press.  
Bloomington, Ill., Feb. 15.—Early burglars blew the safe of the Bank of Chataworth, Ill., and fled to the south with a team. They carried eight thousand dollars in cash and two thousand in silver.

## CHILEAN CRUISER RESCUES PASSENGERS FROM WRECK.

By Associated Press.

Quello, Chile, Feb. 17.—The Chilean tug boat, Pisagua, arriving here today, reports that the Chilean cruiser, Ministro Zenteno, rescued eighty-eight persons who had been left on the wreck of the British steamer, Lima, in the Straits of Magellan.

## ROBBERS HOLD UP LOBBY OF HOTEL ON BOWERY

By Associated Press.

New York, Feb. 17.—Two desperadoes, with drawn revolvers, raided the lobby of the Waverly Hotel on the Bowery today, shot down and killed Fred Devlin, a guest who, when they demanded money for drinks was only able to produce a dime, and then held up and robbed the clerk of the night's receipts. Less than ten dollars all told was the result of the holdup. The men ran out after the shooting and disappeared.

## OWEN UPBRAIDED BY SENATOR DAVIS

Arkansas Senator Says He Would Like  
to See John D. "Wrapped in  
Flames of Hell."

By Associated Press.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 17.—Charging Senator Robert L. Owen of Oklahoma, with being interested in the affairs of the Standard Oil company, and saying that he would like to see John D. Rockefeller "wrapped in the flames of hell," Senator Jeff Davis, of Arkansas, today, made a speech in the senate, which was fittingly characterized by him as "red hot and right off the bat."

The speech was made apropos the efforts of Senator Owen to have passed a general bill giving the right of way through public lands of Arkansas for a gas pipe line. Senator Davis asserted that the bill was in the interest of the Prairie Oil & Gas company, a branch of the Standard Oil company. Believing this true, he said, he could not sit idly by and allow the bill to be passed, which is in direct conflict with the anti-trust law of his state.

Senator Davis said the Prairie company, in Oklahoma, was the same concern that had caused so much scandal in that state and was the one in whose behalf Governor Haskell had interfered to the extent of creating "a stench which filled nostrils of every body." He added that the Oklahoma governor had gone on step by step until he had got himself indicted, and said that such legislation and such favoritism as had been seen in Oklahoma would cause another equally serious scandal.

## CHALLENGES STONE FOR RECOUNT OF BALLOTS

By Associated Press.

Jefferson City, Mo., Feb. 15.—Governor Hadley, today, challenged United States Senator Stone to consent to a recount of the ballots cast in the senatorial primary election. He said if Stone and former Governor Joseph Folk consent and the recount shows Stone was not nominated he will appoint Folk as Stone's successor. Governor Hadley, in his statement, said he will then run against Stone, if the former governor does not enter the contest. Hadley telegraphed to Folk for his consent to open the ballot boxes.

## BURGERS SECURED \$4,000 IN JEWELRY

By Associated Press.

Hot Springs, Ark., Feb. 15.—Three burglars last night, attacked Mr. and Mrs. Jack Wyman, of Peoria, Ill., in their cottage here and robbed them of jewelry valued at four thousand dollars. Wyman, his wife and a negro cook were bound and thrown under a bed and were unable to free themselves until today.

## RATES EARNING 35 PER CENT HELD NOT REMUNERATIVE

Commission Submits Figures Showing Earnings  
on Both Intra-State and Inter-State Shipments--Instead of Being Confiscatory the  
Oklahoma Rates Yield a Profit of 15.74  
Per Cent on Capitalization and  
19.81 Per Cent on Actual  
Cost of Railroads.

Guthrie, Okla., Feb. 17.—To the man engaged in private business and compelled to be satisfied with a return of from two or three to ten or twelve per cent on his investment, and who considers himself exceptionally fortunate if his profits can be figured at the latter rate, a court ruling that rates under which a railroad makes from 31 to 35 per cent profit on its volume of business are confiscatory appears not a little peculiar.

The ruling of United States Circuit Judge Hook as announced at St. Louis on February 5th, in the Oklahoma rate case makes this declaration.

The proposed injunction against Oklahoma's rates applies in the interest of the Gulf, Colorado & Santa Fe company as well as of the other companies interested in the case. The figures showing the profits in the business of the Gulf, Colorado & Santa Fe Co., contained in its sworn statements made to the state corporation commission and presented to Judge Hook on page 44 of the defendant's record in the case, copies of which are in the hands of many attorneys and newspapers of the state, show that instead of being confiscatory, the rates have netted that company profits, on the revenue basis, that would look so good to the average business man as to be beyond hope of attainment. And the so-called "revenue basis," upon which these profits are computed, has always been contended for and upheld by the shrewdest railroad legal lights as the proper one for arriving at conclusions in such matters.

The statement of earnings of the Gulf, Colorado & Santa Fe company for the fiscal year 1909, shows the profits on the Oklahoma intrastate business, or business originating and completed within the state, to have been \$91,731.23. The profits on Oklahoma's proportion of the company's interstate business, meaning business originating in Oklahoma and carried to the state line or the reverse thereof, were \$464,373.59. Thus, the whole profits, intrastate and interstate, on the company's business done in this state, amounted to \$556,105.12.

Instead of being confiscatory, or less an ordinary and reasonable profit upon the investment involved these profits were equivalent to a return of 15.74 per cent on the capitalization of the company as shown by the balance sheet of the average capitalization.

## LIGHT COMPANY WANTS EXTENSION

Will Try to Have Franchise Submitted  
On Same Day Water Works  
Bonds Are Voted.

One of the things that will probably receive much attention from the citizens of Vinita during the coming months, was the proposed franchise to the Vinita Electric Light, Ice & Power company, which was presented and read at the meeting of the city council Tuesday night. The proposed franchise was only read at this meeting, however, and deferred until a later date. The provisions of this franchise are not known other than that the company will ask for an extension of twenty-one years, from the expiration of its present charter. The company will endeavor to get the council to call the election, at which the people shall vote upon the same day that they vote upon the water works extension bond proposition.

tion per mile of line, and a return of 19.81 per cent on the actual cost of the railroad as shown by its statement of the average cost per mile.

Had the Gulf, Colorado & Santa Fe company, done no business at all except what it did within the state of Oklahoma, and had its volume of business and rates charged been what the records prove to have been the actual volume and rates involved, 31 per cent of the receipts from what was really intrastate business, and 35.54 per cent of the receipts for what was really interstate business, would be recorded as clear profit. In other words, in every dollar collected by this company in Oklahoma on business originating and completed in this state there was 31 cents of profit, and in every dollar collected for business originating in this state with destination outside Oklahoma or conducted in Oklahoma having originated outside of Oklahoma or conducted in Oklahoma having originated outside of the state there was 35.54 cents of profit.

In the face of these indisputable figures, and in the light of the fact that the United States supreme court never has upheld an injunction against the enforcement of any rates where it could be shown that the railroad company was making a profit equal to four per cent of the value of the property, it is difficult for disinterested parties to see how Judge Hook could have brought himself to consider the rates as applied to this railroad as anything but ample, and impossible to see how he could have construed them as confiscatory unless he was misled by the opinions of interested railroad experts.

Backed by these and other figures, the corporation commission insisted upon further hearing in this case, not as litigants often fight in support of a legal proposition about which there is room for argument, but as the champion of a righteous cause, supported and spurred on by the conviction that the cause is just and that it had incontrovertible proof of the correctness of its contention.

In the face of the fiscal showing that cannot be questioned it is clear to the public and the commission contends ought to be clear to the court that there is no just ground for issuing the proposed injunction, and that the rates that the commission has established, both freight and passenger, should be allowed to remain in effect.

## BLIZZARD RAGING OVER SOUTHWEST

By Associated Press.

Kansas City, Mo., Feb. 16.—An extreme fall in temperature, ranging from fifty degrees in Sedalia, Mo., to twenty-two at Fort Smith, Ark., was recorded in the southwest during the last twenty-four hours. The local weather bureau reports the following changes during the same period:

Concordia, Kans., six above, a fall of thirty-two degrees; Dodge City, Kans., four above, the fall was thirty-six degrees; Wichita, Kans., seven above, the fall was forty-seven degrees; Oklahoma City, sixteen above, thirty-eight degrees lower; Springfield, Mo., twelve above, a fall of forty-four degrees.

A remarkable drop in temperature was recorded at Abilene, Tex., where the temperature is twenty-four this morning, after it registered eighty-two yesterday.

## TEMPORARILY WITHDRAWS MANY ACRES OF LAND.

By Associated Press.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 17.—A temporary withdrawal of lands from public domain was made by Secretary Ballinger today, involving 2,068,492 acres reserved from coal entry, and 118,013 acres withdrawn from all forms of disposition. 46,431 acres was restored to settlement.

## BEGIN INVESTIGATION OF PACKING COMBINE

By Associated Press.

Jefferson City, Mo., Feb. 17.—The hearing as to the supposed combine of nine meat packing companies in Missouri, began here today, before Special Examiner Daniel Dillon, of St. Louis. Among the representatives of the packing houses here are C. W. Armour, president of Armour & Company, of Kansas City and G. F. Swift, of Chicago, president of Swift & Company, of Illinois.

## FILES ANSWER TO HYDE'S CONTENTION

First Open Accusation That Dr. Hyde  
Communicated Typhoid Fever  
to Swope Family.

By Associated Press.

Kansas City, Mo., Feb. 17.—John G. Paxton, in a sensational answer filed in the circuit court, at Independence, today, accuses Dr. B. C. Hyde of bad faith, in trying to secure evidence in his (Paxton's) possession, "tending," the answer reads, "to prove that the plaintiff has murdered, by administration of poison, Thomas H. Swope and Chrisman Swope and that he has also attempted to poison Margaret Swope and by the same kind of treatment had communicated to members of the Swope family typhoid fever." This is the first time that Dr. Hyde is openly charged with communicating typhoid fever.

Kansas City, Mo., Feb. 17.—Judge Powell, today, overruled the action taken by Dr. Hyde's attorney, to compel John G. Paxton to include, in his deposition in the civil suit, the contents of the letters of, and other communications from Dr. Hektoen. The grand jury continued the investigation.

## MOUNTAIN DISTRICTS REPORT SIXTY BELOW

By Associated Press.

Kansas City, Mo., Feb. 17.—The coldest weather of the winter prevailed in western Kansas, Colorado and parts of Wyoming, today. The cold was also very severe in Oklahoma, Texas and other portions of the southwest. The Kansas temperature ranged from ten above to four below. In Colorado some of the mountain districts report as much as sixty below.

## PRESIDENT PASSES OUT FAT JOBS IN KANSAS

Washington, D. C., Feb. 17.—President Taft, today, sent the following nominations to the senate: United States district attorney, for Kansas, Harry H. Bone; register of the land office, Harry F. Millman, at Dodge City, Kans.; receivers of public money Louis J. Pettijohn, of Kansas City, at Dodge City, Kans.

## INDICTMENTS AGAINST TOBACCO GROWERS.

By Associated Press.

Cincinnati, O., Feb. 17.—Twelve tobacco growers, of Dry Ridge, Ky., were indicted in the federal court at Covington, Ky., today, for alleged attempts to interfere with the interstate shipments of tobacco, by threats of violence against a shipper, W. T. Osborne.

Roosevelt at Gondakora.

By Associated Press.

Gondokoro, Soudan, Feb. 17.—Col. Roosevelt, Kermit and other members of the Smithsonian African scientific expedition arrived here today, all well.

## STONE WILL NOT PERMIT RECOUNT

Missouri Senator Makes Reply to Pro-  
posal of Governor Hadley to  
Reopen Ballot Boxes.

Washington, Feb. 17.—Answering the charge made by Governor Hadley of Missouri, that Senator Stone of that state was not honestly elected to the United States senate and that there should be a recount of ballots, Senator Stone today declared that "such a recount as Governor Hadley proposes is impossible at this time because he knows it would be violative of the constitution and statutes of the state."

Senator Stone, in a prepared statement, asked significantly if Governor Hadley can point out a way by which a full and legal investigation can be had, and if it can, and the finding is in my favor, will he resign as governor because of these false and malicious statements and pay the cost?

Stone declared that if an authoritative recount could be had and he could have "satisfactory" assurances that during these long months the ballot boxes have remained intact, he would not interpose the slightest objection.

"If it could be done in a lawful way," he added, "I would like to silence this assinine and untimely accusation. Governor Hadley charged," continued the senator, "that I had not been honestly elected and offered to give a bill of particulars."

"I called for the bill of particulars. I have since analyzed and answered it and shown beyond peradventure that the governor is many cases misstated facts and showed conclusively that what he gave as his proofs were so worthless as to be ludicrous. From that answer he turned in rage to issue his 'challenge' for a recount, a performance whose absurdity is on a par with the other things he had said and done in this behalf."

As to Governor Hadley's charge that Senator Stone had uttered an "unqualified falsehood" when he declared that Governor Hadley had delayed his charge until the day after the senatorial primary ballots were burned, Senator Stone says: "When I said the ballots had been burned I did not utter a falsehood, but it appears now that I was mistaken as to that particular fact. I based what I said as to that upon what I had read in the St. Louis press, which was to the effect that an order had been made by the election commissioners some weeks ago to destroy the ballots. For some reason this order was not executed."

"Whether the ballots were destroyed or not, however, is immaterial. The point I am making was that Governor Hadley, professing to have information which would vitiate my nomination and election, had buried it in the deep bosom of his consciousness and kept it a profound secret until long after the time when it would serve any practical use to make it public."

## SENATOR ELKINS NEICE ATTEMPTS SUICIDE.

By Associated Press.

Kansas City, Mo., Feb. 16.—Miss Agnes Elkins, niece of United States Senator Stephen B. Elkins, of West Virginia, shot herself today, in her room at a local hotel. The bullet passed through the body below the heart. The physicians believe she has a chance for life. A note found on the dressing table read, "I am tired of life and have no home or friends."

Kansas Dies of Small Pox.

By Associated Press.

Fort Townsend, Wash., Feb. 17.—John Bohning, aged 22, a native of Kansas, is the second member of the crew of the armored cruiser, Washington, to die of small pox since the warship returned from Honolulu. Bohning died during last night, at the Diamond headquarters station, where three others, suffering from the same malady are seriously ill. One of the latter is Ensign P. O. Griffith.

Discontinue Hunt For Nina.

By Associated Press.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 17.—All hope that the missing navy tug, Nina, with thirty-two persons aboard, is still afloat has been abandoned by the navy department and today, warships were ordered to discontinue the hunt.